

Military Working Dog Adoptions

Thank you for your interest in the Military Working Dog Adoption Program! This program is a result of the “Robby Law” (Title 10 US Code 2583) which was enacted by Congress in November 2000, and allows the adoption of military working dogs to law enforcement agencies, former handlers and other persons capable of caring for these dogs.

If you are a law enforcement agency interested in a military working dog, click here:

<http://www.37trw.af.mil/units/37traininggroup/341sttrainingsquadron/index.asp>

If you are looking for a companion dog, the process of adopting a military working dog (MWD) begins when you complete and submit an adoption application. We will notify you via email when we receive your application.

There are several categories of dogs available for adoption: (1) dogs that served in the field, (2) dogs used for training new handlers, and (3) younger dogs that have failed to meet training criteria and may have little to no training. We offer various breeds for adoption, but the dogs are usually German shepherds or Belgian Malinois, with quite a few Labrador Retrievers or other sporting dog breeds. The dogs range in age from 1 to 13 years and include both males and females. Please be aware that our older dogs may have medical issues (like hip and back problems) that prevent them from continuing their work for the Department of Defense, but make them ideal couch companions.

NOTE: To help with current pet overpopulation issues, all our dogs are spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

Patience with the adoption process is essential. The wait to adopt a military working dog can take up to 18 months. We typically have 300 applications on file and only a handful of dogs available at any given time. In addition, we do not place the dogs on a first-come, first-served basis. We do our best to match each dog’s temperament and needs to that of the adoption applicant’s desires and abilities. If you feel you are ready for a dog but don’t want to wait for one of our dogs, we’ll understand if you instead contact your local animal shelter and arrange an adoption through them.

Adopting a dog through our program is free; however, you will have to cover all transportation costs to and from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, as well as all costs the dog incurs after adoption. Prior to adopting the dog, you will be required to sign a legal binding contract transferring the dog from the Department of Defense to you as your personal pet. This document also releases the Department of Defense from responsibility for the dog and problems that may occur. The contract also states the dog will **not** be used for illegal purposes, police or security related activities, private business activities, public or private substance detection, nor will the dog be sold or given to someone with the intent of doing any of the aforementioned activities. This last statement is very important for potential adopters as any violation of the signed contract could result in federal prosecution.

To complete an application, click here: <http://www.37trw.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130329-166.pdf> Once complete, please submit the application to mwd.adoptions@us.af.mil. You will receive a confirmation via email that your application has been reviewed and filed for processing. As soon as we have a dog available that matches your needs, we will contact you to arrange for you to meet the dog. If all goes well, we’ll then arrange for you to take your new family member home!

Adoptions Coordinator: MWD.adoptions@us.af.mil

Commercial Phone: (210) 671-5874

DSN: 473-5874

If you have further questions regarding adopting a military working dog, please review the FAQs sheet before calling our office. Again, thank you for your interest in giving these heroes a forever home.

<http://www.37trw.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120611-035.pdf>